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CENTRAL FAX CENTER**AUG 02 2007****REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Pending claims 1, 15, and 21 have been amended to overcome the §112 rejection. Specifically, each of these claims has been amended to recite that the incrementing or decrementing is either by one of multiple predetermined values, by a variable amount based on a quartile analysis, or by a weight value or zero, as set forth in each of claims 1, 15 and 21, respectively. Sufficient support for these amendments exists in the Specification as filed, specifically page 6, line 9 – page 7, line 8. Accordingly, the §112 rejection is overcome.

Pending claims 1, 4, 5, 15, 16, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,961,793 (Kato). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As to amended claim 1, Kato nowhere teaches, at least, incrementing an accumulator value for losing bidders by one of multiple predetermined values based on the accumulator value for a given accumulator with respect to a given one of a range of accumulator values in which the accumulator value is present. In this regard, Kato does not teach accumulator values whatsoever. Instead, in the system of Kato, priority values are merely stored in an arbitration priority generating section 60 such as shown in FIG. 5, where the arbitration priority appears as a register. Nor is there any teaching of incrementing such a non-existent accumulator value based on its value. This is especially so, as Kato does not disclose an accumulator to increment such an accumulator value. Instead, as conceded by the Office Action, the “arbitration priority data” of Kato is contended to be the “accumulator values.” However, this is just an entry in the arbitration priority generator 60. Instead, in the schemes disclosed in Kato there is no incrementing an accumulator value by one of different values each based on an accumulator value with respect to a portion of a range of accumulator values in which the accumulator value is present, instead in each bus cycle another priority value is stored. *E.g.*, Kato, 10:62-67. Claim 15 and the claims depending therefrom are similarly patentable as Kato fails to teach incrementing the accumulator value by one of different predetermined values based on a quartile range in which the accumulator value is located.

As to claim 6, Kato nowhere teaches accumulators that are to accumulate and store accumulator values. Instead, as discussed above the arbitration priority generating sections of Kato do not perform accumulations and merely store received data. Kato, 8:17-30. Furthermore, Kato fails to teach or suggest that each accumulator is to increment or decrement its accumulator value on a per arbitration cycle basis in response to a grant access. Again, because Kato fails to

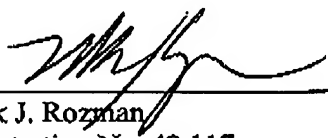
teach n accumulators, there can be no incrementing or decrementing of accumulator values. Instead, after a grant the value stored in the arbitration priority generating section 60 is updated. However, it is neither an incrementing or decrementing, rather new priority basic values and request values are sent to the section 60. Kato, col. 10, lns. 19-22.

As to claim 18 and the claims depending therefrom, the cited art nowhere teaches or suggests that accumulator value associated with a granted bidder is decremented by an amount corresponding to its weight value if the resulting accumulator value would be greater than zero, otherwise the accumulator value is decremented to zero. Because neither reference anywhere teaches or suggests such an analysis to decrement the accumulator value either by a weight value or to a zero value, the rejection is overcome. For at least these same reasons, the dependent claims are also patentable.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

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